025.51
S613w

Where shall I look?

Frances Simpson

THE UNIVERSITY

OF ILLINOIS

LIBRARY

025.51
S613w

D2551
S613w

The Illinois Association of Teachers of English—Bulletin

VOL. IV, NO. 7 URBANA, ILLINOIS APRIL 1, 1912

Published every month except June, July, August and September. *Entered as second-class matter May 22, 1909, at the post office at Urbana, Illinois, under the Act of July 16, 1894.* Communications may be addressed to J. M. Clapp, Lake Forest, Chairman of the Executive Committee, or to H. G. Paul, Urbana.

WHERE SHALL I LOOK?

"Look it up!" How many of us, I wonder, have given that direction, once, twice, a hundred times in a month, and why did we give it? Because we ourselves did not know just how to give the information for which the student was asking, and because we were ashamed to confess our ignorance? Not incredible. Because we were driven just at that minute by a hundred and one other calls upon our time and strength, and found this the easiest means of getting rid of a new burden? Not impossible. Or because we really believed that it would be beneficial for the inquirer to find for himself the fact about which he was showing a hopeful interest? Not wholly improbable. If we were impelled by this last and most worthy motive, did we follow up our direction with any intelligent suggestion as to the particular nook or corner in which an answer might be lurking, or did we depend on our old and tried friends, Webster's *International Dictionary* and the *Encyclopaedia Britannica?*

The purpose in writing this article has been to give a few practical suggestions in selecting and build-

ing up a collection of reference books suitable for high school use. There has been no attempt to emulate or imitate President Eliot's famous five-foot shelf of the world's choicest masterpieces, or indeed, to include any material of that sort. The evaluation of literature and a selection of good reading is a matter into which the personal equation penetrates too intimately for a wayfaring man to offer unsolicited advice. The choice of sets of classics, complete works, best editions and selections from well-known series cannot be considered within the limits of one paper. Books as tools, to be used by any member of a high school class, and such only, are included in the list which follows. The writer has tried to keep in mind the financial aspect of the question, and has therefore added, at the risk of possible criticism, a brief list of reliable dealers in second-hand books.

Probably no high school could purchase, or would if it could, every title suggested; many undoubtedly are already acquaintances of long standing. The writer in her capacity as Reference librarian has tested by frequent use in working with elementary classes in college, every book recommended, and she is convinced that such a collection would form an excellent working basis for a good high school library.

The particular needs of classes working in English, history, civics and the classics have been kept in mind. Classes in modern foreign languages are not likely to require much beyond good bilingual dictionaries; those in mathematics and the sciences can rely for the most part on good general reference books for work outside the text used and the laboratory.

A WORKING LIBRARY FOR HIGH SCHOOL NEEDS

1. Webster's *New international dictionary.* Springfield (Mass.) 1910. Merriam. $12.00.
2. Century *dictionary encyclopedia and atlas.* New ed. 12 v. N. Y. 1911-12. Century Co. Subscription.
3.* Crabb, George. *English synonymes.* New ed. N. Y. 1892. Harper. $1.25.
4.* Fernald, J. C. *English synoyms and antonyms.* 10th ed. N. Y. 1896. Funk. $1.50.
5.* March, Francis A. and March, F. A. jr. *Thesaurus dictionary of the English language.* Phil. 1902. Historical pub. co. $12.00.
6.* Roget, P. M. *Thesaurus of English words and phrases.* New ed. N. Y. 1879. Crowell. $1.00.
7.* Barrère, Albert and Leland, C. G. *Dictionary of slang, jargon and cant.* New ed. 2 v. N. Y. 1897. Macmillan. $4.00.
8.* Farmer, J. S. and Henley, W. E. *Dictionary of slang and colloquial English.* abridged. N. Y. 1905. Dutton, $2.50.
9. Gasc, F. E. A. *Library dictionary of the French and English languages.* N. Y. 1898. Holt. $4.00.
10.* Muret, Edward and Sanders, D. *Encyclopedic English-German and German-English dictionary.* 4 v. London. 1901. Grevel. 21 s.
11.* Köhler, F. *Dictionary of the English and German languages.* 35th ed. London, 1900. Nutt. 7 s. 6 d.
12. Liddell, H. G. and Scott, Robert. *Greek-English lexicon.* 7th ed. revised and enlarged. N. Y. Amer. Book co. $10.00.
13. Lewis, C. T. and Short, Charles. *Harper's Latin dictionary.* N. Y. 1899. Amer. Book co. $6.00.
14. *New international encyclopedia.* New ed. 22 v. N. Y. 1911. Dodd. subscription.
15. *Encyclopaedia Britannica.* 11th ed. 29 v. Cambridge (Eng.) 1910-11. Cambridge press. $160.00.
16. Harper's *Book of facts.* New ed. N. Y. 1906. Harper. $8.00. *Century cyclopedia of names.* see no. 2.
17. *Dictionary of national biography; index and epitome.* N. Y. 1903. Macmillan, $6.25.

18. Lippincott's *Universal pronouncing dictionary of biography and mythology.* New ed. 2 v. Phil. 1905. Lippincott, $15.00.
Century atlas. see no. 2.
19. Rand, McNally and co., pub. *Indexed atlas of the world.* New ed. 2 v. Chicago, 1912. $25.00. (In press.)
20. Lippincott's *New gazetteer.* New revised ed. Phil. 1906. Lippincott, $10.00.
21. Mill, H. R. and others. *International geography.* N. Y. 1900. Appleton, $3.50.
22. *Statesman's Yearbook.* London. 1864-date. Macmillan, $3.00 per year.
23. *World almanac.* N. Y. annual. New York World, $.54 per year.
24. *Daily News almanac.* Chicago, annual. Daily News press, $.36 per year.
25. Shepherd, W. R. *Historical atlas.* N. Y. 1911. Holt, $2.25.
26. Ploetz, Carl. *Epitome of ancient, mediaeval and modern history.* Boston, 1911. Houghton, $3.00. (second-hand for $1.50.)
26. Larned, J. N. *History for ready reference.* 7 v. Springfield (Mass.), 1894-1910. Nichols, $35.00.
27. Brewer, E. C. *Historic note-book.* Phil. 1891. Lippincott, $3.50.
28. Bliss, W. D. P. *Encyclopedia of social reform.* New ed. N. Y. 1908. Funk, $7.50.
29. Robert, H. M. *Rules of order.* Chicago. Scott, $.75.
30. Brookings, W. D. and Ringwalt, R. C. *Briefs for debate.* N. Y. 1896. Longmans, $1.25.
31. Ringwalt, R. C. *Briefs on public questions.* N. Y. 1905. Longmans, $1,20.
32. Robbins, E. C. *The high school debate book.* Chicago, 1911. McClurg, $1.00.
33. Bailey, L. H. *Cyclopedia of American agriculture.* 4 v. N. Y. 1909. Macmillan, $20.00.
34. *Evening sky map;* monthly; published by Leon Barritt, 150 Nassau St., New York, $1.00 per year.
35. Appleton's *New practical cyclopedia.* 6 v. N. Y. Appleton, $18.00. subscription.
36. Henley's *Twentieth century book of recipes, formulas and processes.* N. Y. 1907. Henley, $2.25.

37. Bryan, Michael. *Dictionary of painters and engravers.* New ed. 5 v. N. Y. 1904. Macmillan, subscription. ($30.00.)
38. Grove, George. *Dictionary of music and musicians.* New ed. revised and enlarged. 5 v. N. Y. 1904-date. Macmillan, $5.00 per volume.
39. Law, F. S. *Operatic tales.* Phil. 1903. Hatch music co. $1.00.
40. Harper's *Dictionary of classical literature and antiquities;* ed. by H. T. Peck. N. Y. 1896. Harper, $6.00.
41. Bulfinch, Thomas. *Works;* ed. by E. E. Hale. 3 v. N. Y. Crowell, $2.25. (Containing the author's *Age of fable, Age of chivalry,* and *Legends of Charlemagne.*)
42. Gayley, C. M. *Classic myths in English literature.* Boston. 1893. Ginn, $1.50.
43. Brewer, E. C. *Reader's handbook of references, plots, and stories.* Phil. 1880. Lippincott, $3.50.
44. Brewer, E. C. *Dictionary of phrase and fable.* Phil. 1896. Lippincott, $1.50.
45. Frey, A. R. *Sobriquets and nicknames.* New ed. Boston, 1895. Houghton, $2.00.
46. Phyfe, W. H. P. *Five thousand facts and fancies.* N. Y. 1901. Putnam, $5.00.
47. Wheeler, W. A. *Explanatory and pronouncing dictionary of the noted names of fiction.* Boston, 1892. Houghton, $2.00
48. Bartlett, John. *Familiar quotations.* 9th ed. enlarged. Boston, 1891. Little, $3.00.
49. Bent, S. A. *Short sayings of great men.* New ed. Boston, 1895. Houghton, $2.00.
50. Hoyt, J. K. *Cyclopaedia of practical quotations.* New ed. enlarged. N. Y. 1896. Funk, $5.00.
51. Warner's *Library of the world's best literature;* ed. by Charles Dudley Warner and others. 46 v. (Originally $3.50 per vol., can be had at a great reduction through second-hand dealers; has sold at $17.50.)
52. Reed, T. B. *Modern eloquence.* 15 v. Phil. 1901. Morris, subscription. (Now sold at about $25.00.)
53. Stedman, E. C. *Victorian anthology.* Boston, 1895. Houghton, $1.75.
54. Stedman, E. C. *American anthology.* Boston, 1911. Houghton. $2.00.

55. Ward, T. H. *English poets.* 4 v. N. Y. 1891-94. Macmillan, $1.00 per volume.
56. Child, F. J. *English and Scottish ballads;* ed. by Sargent and Kittridge. Boston, 1904. Houghton, $3.00.
57. Palgrave, F. T. *Golden treasury of songs and lyrics.* 2 v. N. Y. 1891-97. Macmillan, $3.00.
58. Garnett, Richard and Gosse, E. W. *English literature; an illustrated record.* 4 v. London, 1903-1904. Macmillan, $13.50.
59. Ryland, Frederick. *Chronological outline of English literature.* N. Y. 1900. Macmillan, $2.00.
60. Whitcomb, S. L. *Chronological outlines of American literature.* N. Y. 1894. Macmillan, $1.25.
61. Moulton, C. W. *Library of literary criticism.* 8 v. Buffalo, 1901. Moulton publishing co., $27.50.
62. *The Holy Bible;* containing both the Old and New Testaments. (A teacher's ed. for $3.50. Syndicate publishing co., N. Y. 1910.)

The foregoing list totals a little more than $740, which in most cases represents the retail price. Libraries and other institutions look for and customarily receive what is known as the "library discount", which may vary from five to thirty-three and a third percent, though the usual library discount is understood to be ten percent. In the case of expensive subscription sets, it is usually unwise for an institution limited in funds to buy from the original agent, as the work if of real worth, will soon be on the market at a noticeable reduction. The *Century Dictionary* not yet free from the subscription price was estimated at seventy-five dollars, in the computation, and the *New international encyclopedia* at ninety. Books marked with an asterisk are to be understood as alternates, and but one of each was included in the total cost. A reduction of the aggregate sum to five

hundred dollars or less would not be an unreasonable estimate, and if dealers in second-hand books are to be considered, the discount may be even more generous. In purchasing books from second-hand dealers, only those of known reliability should be employed, unless the buyer has an opportunity of giving careful personal examination. Fortunately there are a number of thoroughly reliable dealers in second-hand books to be found. The Morris Book-Shop, 104 S. Wabash Ave., George Engelke, 280 N. Clark St., and G. W. Barker, 184-86 Dearborn St., all of Chicago, and Pingpank of Indianapolis, are excellent firms, and as a rule issue catalogues of their stock. One or two large department stores, notably Carson & Pirie, Chicago, and Wanamaker, Philadelphia, have an excellent book department, and occasionally furnish genuine bargains. A word about the despised "second-hand book", which is often "second-hand" in name only. If the work is in good condition, binding firm, no leaves missing and but slightly soiled, it may serve an excellent purpose at half its original cost, and the amount saved to the library fund be devoted to buying several other greatly needed volumes.

An excellent means often used by libraries or individuals in purchasing books, is that of inserting in *Publishers' Weekly*, a trade journal published in the interest of the book-trade, at 298 Broadway, New York, an advertisement at the rate of ten cents per line per issue, calling attention to certain specific wants of the library. Unless the need is quite out of the ordinary, the notice is likely to bring more than one response; it is certainly worth trying.

One word of caution ought to be added. If the town possesses a live public library, the high school should duplicate the town collection as rarely as possible. For example, if the Warner *Library* is in the Public Library, its purchase for the high school collection ought not to be considered, but the twenty to forty dollars thus saved might be devoted to some other need. If both institutions are located, as they ought to be, centrally and conveniently, they cannot be far apart, and ought to play into each other's hands. If any greatly needed book is in neither collection and cannot be bought from available school funds, a little tactful persuasion will often induce the public librarian to secure it. The high school teacher who fails to recognize and utilize every possibility for his classes, is not entirely alive to his opportunities.

As has been already intimated, many of the foregoing list are doubtless already in good standing in some high school libraries, and probably no library is so unfortunate as not to possess a few. Undoubtedly each user of books has his favorite tools and considers any others as distinctly inferior. The writer has no word of criticism for any useful book; she claims no monopoly in the use and knowledge of reference books; she is only eager to pass on the fruit of her own experience.

FRANCES SIMPSON,
Reference Librarian,
University of Illinois.

CATLING BROS.
BINDERY
BINGHAMTON, N.Y.

Where shall we look
F Simpson

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS-URBANA
3 0112 077497862